

Agency Overview

The Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1992 were signed into law by President George Bush on October 30, 1992, and required the establishment of State Independent Living Councils (SILCs). Idaho's SILC was created by Governor Cecil Andrus by Executive Order 93-01 on May 28, 1993 with its membership appointed by the Governor. The SILC became an independent governmental entity as required by Section 705 of the Rehabilitation Act with the passage of House Bill 711 on July 1, 2005.

The council members hire and direct the SILC Executive Director regarding policy, goals and objectives, and the strategy and implementation of the State Plan for Independent Living (SPIL). The Executive Director is responsible for regular daily business and is in charge of the SILC staff two (2) full-time employees. The SILC has one office located in Boise.

The SILCs revenue primarily comes from the Federal Workforce Investment Act (Title VII, Part B from the Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (IDVR) and Title I from the Idaho Commission for the Blind & Visually Impaired (ICBVI)) and State General Funds appropriated by the Idaho Legislature. Additional revenue sources include funds obtained from a sub-lease of office space, interest accrual, and revenue received from contractual projects such as the statewide independent living conference and the Boise State University (BSU) Needs Assessment Survey of Idahoans with Disabilities.

Since its inception, the SILC has been actively engaged in activities that assist in providing Idahoans with disabilities a greater voice in obtaining services that are consumer-responsive, cost-effective and community-based. The SILC is known nationwide as an innovative leader in the independent living movement.

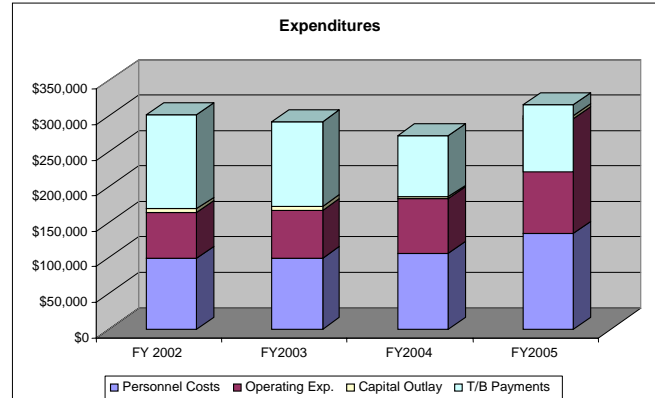
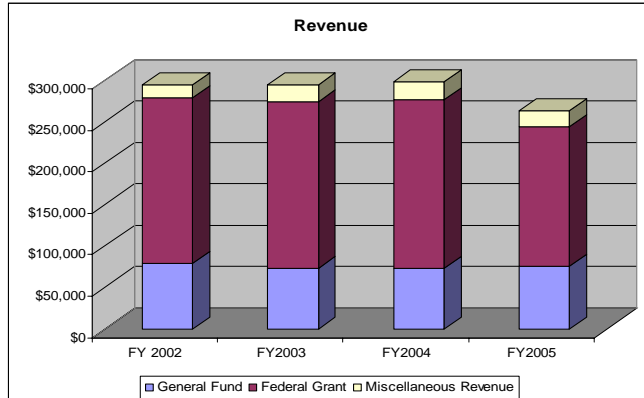
Core Functions/Idaho Code

Federal mandate (**29 U.S.C. section 796d(c) and 34 CFR 364.21**) requires the SILC to 1) Develop, sign and submit, in conjunction with the IDVR and the ICBVI, the SPIL for people with disabilities. It must monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the SPIL; 2) Support the centers for independent living (CILs) and advocate for independent living (IL) services provided through state and federal programs for people with disabilities; 3) Gather and disseminate information, conduct studies and analyses, develop model policies, conduct training on IL philosophy, and work to expand and improve IL services. Additionally, **Chapter 12, Title 56, Idaho Code**, requires the SILC to 1) Assess the need for services for Idahoans with disabilities and advocate with decision makers; 2) Supervise and evaluate such staff as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the council; 3) Ensure that all regularly scheduled meetings of the council are open to the public and that sufficient advance notice of meetings is provided pursuant to the open meeting law; 4) Prepare reports and make recommendations, as necessary; 5) Perform other activities the council deems necessary to increase the ability of Idahoans with disabilities to live independently; 6) Promulgate rules, as may be necessary, in compliance with Chapter 52, Title 67, Idaho Code.

To expand the network of CILs in the state and to maintain compliance with federal and state mandates, the SILC hired a resource development specialist (RDS) to research and apply for funding on the behalf of the CILs.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Fund	\$78,800	\$73,100	\$73,300	\$74,800
Federal Grant	\$199,900	\$200,700	\$203,000	\$169,100
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$15,800	\$20,300	\$21,800	\$19,100
Total	\$294,500	\$294,100	\$298,100	\$263,000
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$99,800	\$99,300	\$106,700	\$133,900
Operating Expenditures	\$64,400	\$67,500	\$76,300	\$76,400
Capital Outlay	\$4,500	\$5,200	\$2,500	\$4,400
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$132,600	\$119,800	\$86,000	\$101,300
Total	\$301,300	\$291,800	\$271,500	\$316,000



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Federal Requirements:				
I. Develop, Sign and Submit the State Plan for Independent Living Council (in collaboration with IDVR and ICBVI).	2002-04 SPIL completed in '01		Completed '05-07 SPIL	
II. Support CILs	\$96,000	\$92,000	\$45,000	Hired RDS
III. Advocate for Independent Living Services	Promote legislation	Promote legislation	Promote legislation	Promote legislation
IV. Gather & Disseminate Information	1. Legislative Updates 2. Display Booths 3. Quarterly Bus. Mtgs 4. Statewide IL Conf.	1. Legislative Updates 2. Display Booths 3. Regional Conf. 4. Quarterly Bus. Mtgs	1. Town Hall Mtgs – SPIL 2. Legislative Updates 3. Display Booths 4. Quarterly Bus. Mtgs 5. Begin working on Statewide IL Conf.	1. Statewide IL Conf. 2. Legislative Updates 3. Display Booths 4. Quarterly Bus. Mtgs
V. Conduct Studies & Analyses			Update of 1995 Needs Assessment	Completed Update of 1995 Needs Assessment
VI. Develop Model Policies	1. Draft & advocate legislation 2. Participate in committees and Task Forces	1. Draft & advocate legislation 2. Participate in committees and Task Forces	1. Draft & advocate legislation 2. Participate in committees and Task Forces	1. Draft & advocate legislation 2. Participate in committees and Task Forces
VII. Expand and improve IL services				
State Statute Regulations				
I. Assess the need for services for Idahoans with disabilities and advocate with decision makers	1. Personal Experience 2. Consumers contact the SILC & other advocates	1. Personal Experience 2. Consumers contact the SILC & advocates	1. Personal Experience 2. Consumers contact the SILC & advocates 3. Update of 1995 Needs Assessment	1. Personal Experience 2. Consumers contact the SILC & advocates 3. Completion of Update of 1995 Needs Assessment

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
II. Prepare reports and make recommendations, as necessary	1. 704 Report 2. Annual Report	1. 704 Report 2. Annual Report	1. 704 Report 2. Annual Report	1. 704 Report 2. Annual Report
III. Perform other activities the council deems necessary to increase the ability of Idahoans with disabilities to live independently				
IV. Promulgate rules, as may be necessary, in compliance with Chapter 52, Title 67, Idaho Code				

Examples of legislation drafted by the SILC include:

- 2002: Child Custody, Termination of Parental Rights, Idaho Building Code Advisory Act, and Voter Accessibility
- 2003: Termination of Parental Rights, Child Protection, and Accessible Parking
- 2004: HB711 separating the SILC from other state agencies and Accessible Parking
- 2005: Adding disability as a protected class within the Human Rights Act

Model Policies include the SILC Student Transition Team which assisted in the development of the Blackfoot Pilot Program in Blackfoot High School. Transition, as the SILC envisions it, utilizes the current three prongs of transition (instruction, post- school employment, and community) and strengthens each through a partnership with local centers for independent living with the addition of training about individual rights of people with disabilities, self-empowerment and confidence, full understanding of the independent living philosophy, providing a list of resources outside of school, and mentoring during school and after graduation.

Examples of committees and task forces that the SILC Executive Director participates in include: The Governor's Council on Homelessness, Help America Vote Act (HAVA), The National Center for Accessible Transportation, the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) Monitoring Conference, Youth Leadership Development Summit, A Better Way Coalition (formerly the End of Life Coalition), Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities (CID), the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Task Force, and Medicaid Buy-In.

Performance Highlights

Due to the direct influence and advocacy of the SILC, House Bills 160 and 167 were passed in the Idaho Legislature forever protecting the parental rights of parents with disabilities. Prior to the 2003 legislation, parents with disabilities were routinely deprived of their rights, consistently lost custody of their children, were denied adoption, and had their children removed from their care without due process solely because of a disability. The SILC gathered grass roots participation from parents who testified in front of the legislature. For example, one mother suffered great heart ache when her new born child was taken from the hospital by child protective services, before the mother even had the opportunity to hold the child, because of the mothers' mental illness – despite having successfully raised two older children. Even with the passage of these laws, the SILC continues to receive calls requesting information protecting the parental rights of parents with disabilities.

In 2004, the SILC commissioned a survey of Idahoans with disabilities. The report was completed and delivered in 2005 showing interesting results. For example, more than 76% of respondents indicated that they voted in an election in the last year clearly indicating that people with disabilities are highly civically engaged. The total general voter turnout rate for the 2004 general election was 76.79%.

To view the entire survey and other plans, reports, information and resources, please go to our website at www2.state.id.us/silc/index.htm.

For More Information Contact

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